

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on June 12, 2009 presents only claims drawn to species which were non-elected without traverse in the election filed on August 29, 2008, and as such is non-responsive (MPEP § 821.03).

Claim 1 as amended is not readable on the elected species of Figs. 1-5 since it now requires the input rotor (flywheel) and the pressure plate to be made of a material containing iron as the main ingredient. This is not the case in the elected embodiment of Figs. 1-5 as can be seen from lines 3-5 on page 33 of the substitute specification filed on June 22, 2006 which state that "...the flywheel 3, and the pressure plate 7 use a carbon composite material. The carbon composite material is a composite material containing carbon as a main ingredient...".

Amended claim 1 is directed to an alternative embodiment described in lines 2-17 on page 45 of the substitute specification filed on June 22, 2006. This alternative embodiment is distinct from the elected embodiment as evidenced by applicant's remarks appearing on pages 19-20 of the response filed on June 12, 2009.

Since claims 2-19 each depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, none can read on the elected embodiment.

Claim 20, even as originally presented, can not read on the elected species of Figs. 1-5 since it requires "a plurality of fixing units directly coupling the outer peripheral portion of the disk-like input portion to the inner peripheral portion of the friction plate". The embodiment of Figs. 1-5 does not employ a plurality of fixing units as claimed. In the elected embodiment the friction plates 41 have teeth 41a which are coupled to teeth

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44b formed on the ring member 45, and the ring member is secured to the disk-like input portion 31 by stop pins 31b as described on pages 30-31 of the substitute specification filed on June 22, 2006.

Claim 20 is directed to the embodiment of Figs. 9-13 which includes fixing units 260 as described in lines 11-13 on page 39 of the substitute specification filed on June 22, 2006.

Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on June 12, 2009 has been considered by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard M. Lorence whose telephone number is 571-272-7094. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 10:30AM to 7:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David D. Le can be reached on 571-272-7092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Richard M. Lorence/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3655